

celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have two adoring daughters and six grandchildren. I am proud to represent Reverend Mitchell and extremely happy to consider him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Reverend R.T. Mitchell on his 35th anniversary as Pastor of New Revelation Missionary Baptist Church. For his lifetime of leadership and selfless service to others, he is worthy of the highest praise.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARY BLAS PABLO

### HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 14, 2013*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Mary Blas Pablo for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America. Mrs. Pablo will retire after 27 years of distinguished service to the Nation as an Army Civilian.

Ms. Pablo began her service in the Pentagon in 1985 with the Department of the Army's Military Operations, Training Directorate. She relocated to Guam in 1986 as part of her husband's military reassignment where she worked for the Naval Supply Depot from 1986–1988. Mrs. Pablo returned to the Washington, DC area in 1988 where she began her 24-year tenure with the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison in the Congressional Travel Office as a Travel Staff Assistant. During this time, Ms. Pablo coordinated and arranged travel for Members and employees of Congress averaging 450 Congressional trips annually. She played a key role and contributed to several successful and flawless missions.

In 2002, Ms. Pablo became the Chief of the Army Congressional Travel Office where she served as the Army's subject matter expert on Congressional travel and was responsible for the administration and management of the Army's Congressional Travel Program. Her expertise and selfless dedication to Congress and the Army ensured support and assistance for delegations traveling domestic and abroad, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Ms. Pablo was always willing to do whatever it took to accomplish the missions vital to Congress and the Army.

Ms. Pablo has continued to remain passionate about Soldiers, their Families, and ensuring the quality of life for Service Members matches the quality of their service. Through her numerous contributions, she has made a real and lasting impact towards gaining Congressional trust, confidence, and advocacy for the Army.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I ask my colleagues to join me today in saying thank you to Ms. Mary Blas Pablo for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to this country throughout her distinguished career as an Army Civilian and we wish her, her husband, Army-retired Ben Pablo, their children and grandchildren, Lisa, Todd, Brian, Talan, Landon and Addisen all the best in her well deserved retirement.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KARLY WILLIAMS

### HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 14, 2013*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish Karly Williams a happy birthday. Karly was born on January 14, 1999 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She is the daughter of Robert and Tracie Williams.

Karly attends Hunter Middle School—Home of the Hawks—in Ooltewah, Tennessee. At Hunter, Karly is a member of the WHMS News crew and won an award for her service.

During the 2012 football season, Karly was a manager for the football team and now serves as a manager for the wrestling team.

Karly is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Beehive class president of the Harrison Bay ward. One day, Karly hopes to attend Brigham Young University.

For now, Karly likes fashion, fishing, dance and drawing. She also likes Chik-fil-A, Red Lobster, sunny weather, country music and beaches.

Karly is a girl who loves pearls—and her daddy's big, red truck. Wherever daddy is, Karly wants to be.

Karly's dog, Izzie, pals around with Aggie. Aggie, also known as Little Boy, is Mimi's brown chihuahua. Aggie and Izzie, an Australian cattle dog, live with Karly on Birchwood Pike in Harrison, Tennessee.

#### HONORING HUELL HOWSER

### HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 14, 2013*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, last week, California lost one of its most beloved individuals, Huell Howser. Huell was known to so many Californians as the friendly host of California's Gold, the long running public television program from which he retired late last year.

Huell's southern accent made it clear that he wasn't a native Californian. He was born in Tennessee but moved to Los Angeles in 1981 to become a reporter for KCBS. He fell in love with his new home and created his own television show dedicated to life in California. The premise was simple. He, a cameraman, and a hand-held microphone traveled across the state, visiting everything from national parks to little known mom-and-pop shops, in search of California stories. He found them.

His folksy charm was disarming and his impromptu interviews were lighthearted and friendly. He talked to nearly everyone he met and found the most incredible stories ranging from tragic and touching to obscure and wonderful. But regardless of where he was visiting, his genuine enthusiasm stole the show. He was known for his "gee-wiz" demeanor and being completely fascinated with everything he stumbled upon, often exclaiming "That's amazing!" The LA Times once called him "magnificently unslick." Many Californians

have mastered their own impression of him, with love of course.

California's Gold ran on public television for 19 years. It became many Californians' "comfort television." Huell Howser was always a pleasure to watch. Each episode would show you everything you ever wanted to know about a place, and perhaps a little more.

He was a personal friend and I will always have fond memories of our Thanksgivings together at my brother Jim's home in San Pedro. I will never forget listening to Huell and my mother Ramona share stories of Nashville where she attended high school.

Since his passing, there has been an outpouring of tributes from his fans across the state who remember him for his optimism and sincerity. He is truly irreplaceable.

#### HONORING BRAD BELK'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

### HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 14, 2013*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brad Belk on his 25 years of service to the Joplin Museum Complex.

Brad has made it his mission to promote the local history of Joplin through numerous positions including author, educator, archivist, historian, exhibit designer, conservator, tour guide, historian film script writer, director, and film producer.

Brad has collaborated with the design and planning of several off-site permanent exhibits for the Joplin Museum Complex. He has also renovated many of the exhibit areas including the museum's mineral wing and assisted with the historical restoration of the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center. Throughout the years Brad has given thousands of historical tours, lectures and presentations. He has also overseen the addition of ten major collections to the museum containing over 100,000 artifacts.

In addition, Brad has made large contributions to the historical literature of the region writing five books and co-authoring two others. He also has penned numerous articles on the region and directed or appeared in thirteen historical videos—several of which have received awards. He recently wrote and directed a 30-minute video covering the history of Missouri Southern State University, MSSU.

Alongside his work at the museum, Brad currently serves on the MSSU Alumni board of directors and is currently completing the 75th anniversary book for Missouri Southern.

Over the years, Brad has served on the Missouri History Speakers' Bureau, as Co-Chairman of the City of Joplin's 125th Celebration, and as a board member of the Route 66 Association of Missouri. He was also a member of the Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation, and the Joplin Elk's Elkland Advisory Committee.

In 2006, Brad was honored with the Missouri Governor's Missouri Humanities Award.

Mr. Speaker, Brad's contributions to the city of Joplin and the state of Missouri are far-reaching, and it is an honor to recognize him.